



CITY OF FREMONT  
URBAN FORESTRY SECTION • MAINTENANCE DIVISION • (510) 713-5700

Tree City USA  
since 1996



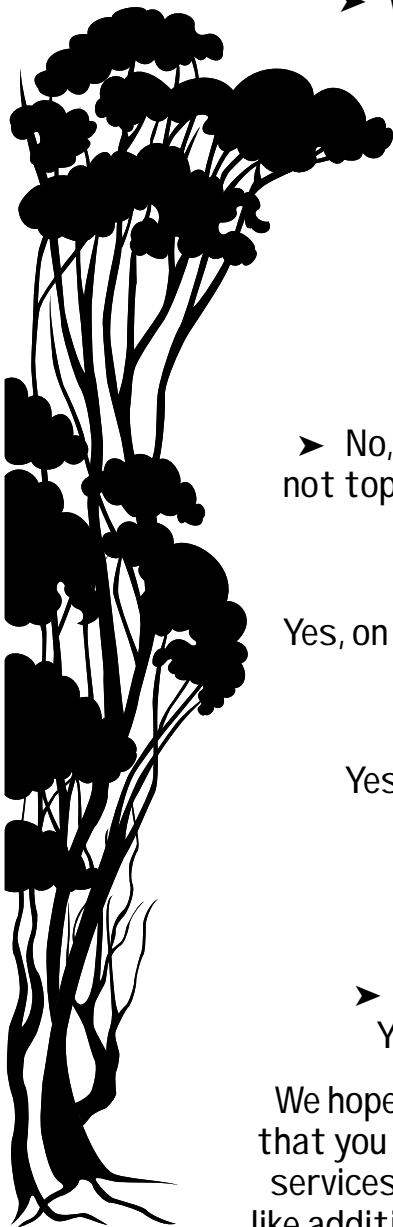
# City of Fremont Urban Forestry Services

Monday through Friday  
(510) 713-5700  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



*Printed on recycled paper.*

# Tree Services Summary



- Why does the City plant and maintain trees?  
Trees are good for the property owner,  
the community, business,  
and the environment.

- How do I know if a tree is a City tree?  
(See page #6 for diagram; possibly call.)

- Does the City prune its trees?  
Yes, at no cost. (See pages #7 & #8)

Does the City top trees?

- No, topping is not a sound practice so the City does not top, unless a last resort to save a damaged mature tree. (See page #9)

- Does the City plant trees?  
Yes, on limited basis when resident agrees to water the tree. (See page #10)

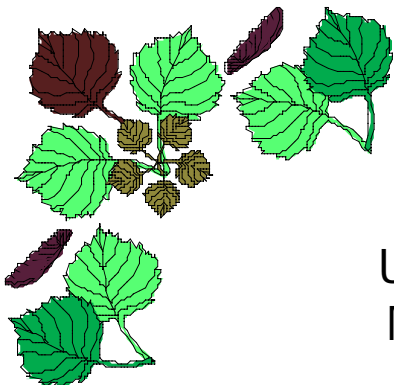
- Does the City remove trees?  
Yes, under some circumstances. (See page #11)

- Does the City do root pruning?  
No. Information on proper root pruning  
is available to residents.

- Will the City respond to tree emergencies?  
Yes, to assure public safety. (See page #4)

We hope this brochure has been of assistance to you and that you will retain it for future use. If you desire any of the services listed above, have additional questions, or would like additional copies of this brochure, please contact us at:

37350 Sequoia Road, Fremont, CA 94536



## Urban Forestry Crew Mission Statement

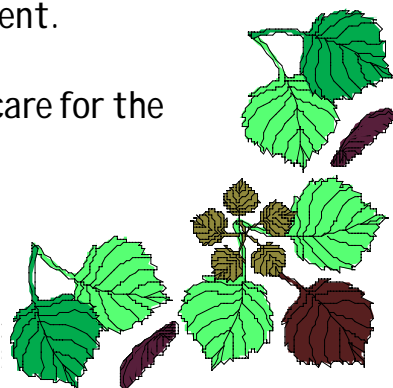
To preserve the urban forest and keep public rights-of-way safe and aesthetically pleasing through comprehensive City tree management.

Emphasize a comprehensive, systematic approach to tree care through preventative measures and proper maintenance.

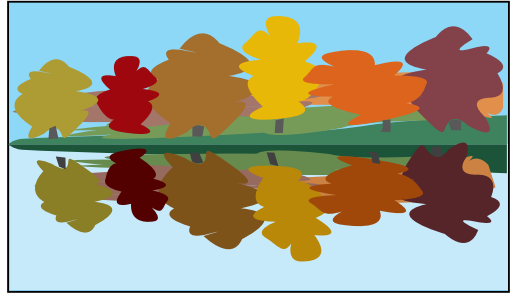
This comprehensive approach to tree care enables us to personalize our service to the specific needs of the customer.

This results in healthier, more attractive trees; service to satisfied customers; and increased safety for employees while preserving the environment.

Tree health care . . . care for employees, care for the environment and care for our customers.



The citizens and City Council of Fremont recognize that trees are very important to both the present and future of our City. The Park Maintenance/Tree Crew Section is responsible for approximately 55,000 trees within the public right of way in front of both residential and commercial property as well as City parks and landscaped boulevard areas.



## Why should the City plant and maintain trees?

Because they:

- Increase property values (21% according to one study)
- Remove carbon dioxide (48 pounds per year per tree in one study)
- Reduce energy demands (lower cooling costs 10 to 50% depending upon climate)
- Diffuse and hold rain
- Deflect wind above houses and people
- Reduce smog by trapping pollutants
- Block noise pollution
- Increase neighborhood character, increases community pride, contributes to neighborhood aesthetics
- Reduce stress
- Increase business (people tend to shop longer and apartments and offices rent faster)
- Soften architectural lines, adds variety of color, form, texture and pattern



## Public Education

The Park Maintenance/Tree Crew Section wants to keep our Urban Forest in the public eye. Examples of activities undertaken are Arbor Day Plantings, newspaper articles, and receiving "Tree City U.S.A." designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. In addition, tree services information will be made available to schools, youth groups, or any formal or informal group which is interested in trees when requested.



## Tree Emergency Response

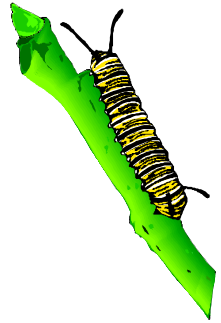
The City will remove and dispose of limbs that have fallen from Street Trees. Members of the Parks Maintenance crews are called out at any hour to respond to tree-related emergencies. If this damage occurs after normal working hours, call the Fire Department (791-4292), who will call out tree crews. During these times, the priority is to clear the streets for emergency vehicles so it may be necessary to leave branches in front yards until normal working hours.

Also, if large limbs from trees located on private property fall and obstruct the public sidewalk or street, the City will remove the obstruction and place the cut up limbs on the private property.



# Pest and Disease Control

Because of environmental concerns and limited resources, the City does not spray Street Trees. The City may spray to treat severe cases of pest infestation, in which case biological or natural controls would be used.



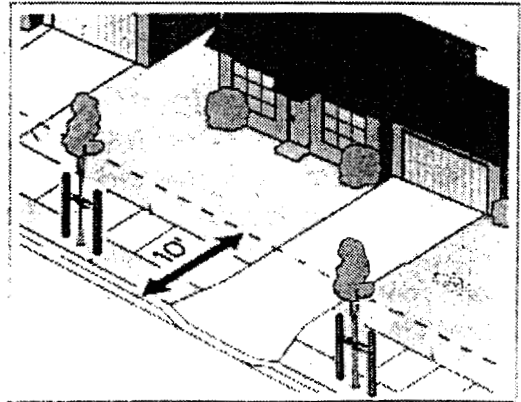
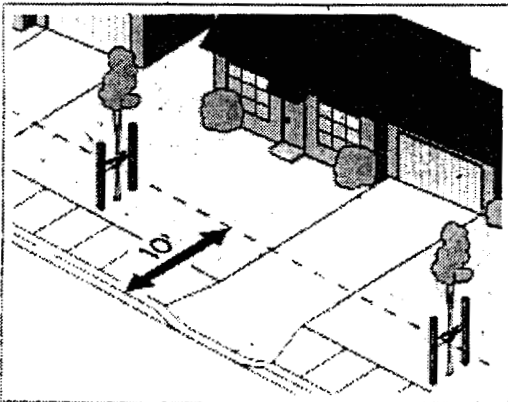
In other cases, upon request, the City will assist residents by diagnosing their Street Tree disease or pest problems and discuss the controls available. In addition, the City will allow residents to have their Street Tree sprayed by private contractor or to do the spraying themselves. (An inexpensive spray attachment for a garden hose, which can be used with chemicals or a soap and water solution, can be purchased at most hardware stores.) Residents are required to notify the City if they have the tree sprayed.



# How do I know if the tree in front of my property is a City Tree?

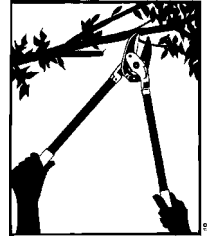
City trees are planted in public right-of-way. The public right of way is a different width in different parts of the City. Use diagram provided below to help determine if you have a City tree. If unable to determine if the tree in front of your property is a City Street Tree, call the Parks Maintenance Department.

The responsibility for trees planted outside the public right-of-way remains with the property owner.



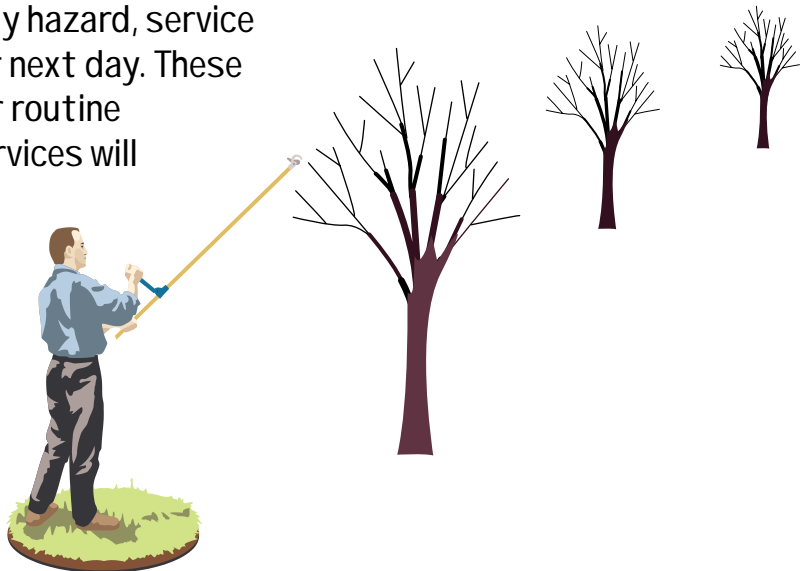
# Tree Pruning

The tree crew schedules pruning on an area basis and as needed based on City standards. Tree pruning is limited to providing clearing of branches for pedestrian and vehicle traffic, as well as safety related situations.



Area Pruning: The most efficient way to prune trees is to send a crew or crews into an area and have them prune all of the trees in the City right-of-way. Schedules are based upon the size and species of tree. The City prunes young Street Trees to develop proper growth habits at an early stage. Older trees are pruned depending upon the needs of that tree. (The City does not condone residents pruning City trees and will only remove brush cut by City crews.)

Requests: We receive over 2,000 telephone requests per year for tree services. These requests are integrated into the area schedules as much as possible. Telephone requests are prioritized based upon the need for pruning and the urgency of the request. If a request reveals a safety hazard, service is provided the same or next day. These services are part of our routine maintenance. Other services will be responded to in a reasonable amount of time, depending on nature of requests, workload and staffing levels.





## The City prioritizes tree work as follows:

1. Safety related hazardous calls such as split tree, hanging limb, tree uprooting, tree or limbs down blocking public right of way (sidewalk or street).
2. Dead, diseased, and sometimes decayed.
3. Trees blocking traffic signals, street signs and street lights. (Trees blocking street lights are where limbs actually interfere with light head.)
4. City trees making actual physical contact with property possibly resulting in damage.
5. Clearance of 8' over sidewalks and 10-14' over streets, also to keep safe visibility for pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

6. The City is not able to provide tree services for the following reasons/requests:

- To reduce leaves, seeds, fruit, etc.
- To increase sunlight or views.
- To reduce size of trees considered too tall, swaying, too wide or overgrown.
- To control birds or other animals in trees.
- To remove roots in lawn or easement areas.
- To prune branches growing over fence lines from City landscaped areas.
- To clear phone, cable and electric (power) lines (service lines to house will be cleared if damage may be caused to structure).
- Other nuisance-related reasons.



# Tree Topping

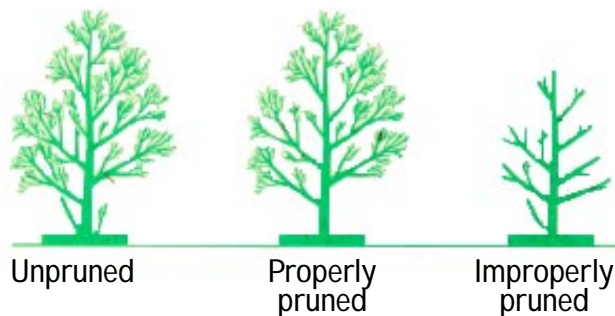


One common request is for a tree to be topped. Most of these requests are generated by property owners concerned about leaves or the safety of a tall tree. However, topping is not a horticulturally sound practice and weakens a tree in several ways. (If you see City tree crews doing severe crown reduction of trees, this is being done as a last resort to save a mature or damaged tree.)

- Topping starves a tree since such a large portion of the crown is removed. (Good pruning practices do not remove more than one third of the tree.)
- It encourages insect and disease problems.
- Weak branch attachments result.
- It can result in rapid new growth which is actually denser than the non-topped tree.
- Tree death due to shock may occur.
- Topping ruins the natural form of a tree (now and in the future).
- A topped tree costs more to maintain than an untopped tree.
- A topped tree ruins the uniformity of a street.
- Tree will have lost natural structure and strength for rest of it's life span.

The City, therefore, will not top trees. It will, however, select the properly sized tree for the growing area.

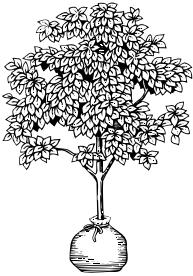
Some topping of street trees is done by P.G.&E. under their high voltage. For information call P.G.&E. at 1-800-743-5000.



# Tree Planting

The City replants trees that have been recently removed from the public right-of-way. Trees that have been missing for more than four years may not be able to be replanted because of a limited replanting budget.

Homeowners requesting tree planting will have their property inspected to determine if there is a suitable location for a tree to be planted that will not conflict with existing utilities. When a site is good for planting a tree, the City will select a variety of tree to plant. Then tree will be placed on a planting list and replanted on a quarterly basis.



After a tree is planted the property owner is responsible for watering, sweeping or raking leaves and flowers, and notifying the Tree Section if something doesn't look right or tree requires restaking. Watering is usually required for the first three years.

## Tips for Tree Health

### Do not:

- Allow plants to grow on tree trunk (i.e. ivy or vines)
- Surround in concrete or asphalt
- Plant flowers at base
- Change grade of surface around tree
- Damage tree trunk with weedeater or lawnmower
- Put metal objects in trunk such as nails, wire cable or chains
- Keep area around base, in a continually saturated state
- Raise young trees



# Tree Removals

Trees planted in an urban environment have both a physiological and a financial life-span. The City has set up a tree removal process in order to balance the individual property owner's needs and desires with the benefits that trees provide to the entire community. The City's Street Tree Ordinance provides for removal of street trees only under certain circumstances and assigns responsibility for the removal to either the City or the property owner.

After an inspection is conducted to determine if conditions allow for issuing a removal permit, a no-fee permit may be issued. All permits are issued with the understanding that the property owner will bear the cost of removal. Citywide historical or protected trees will not be allowed to be removed unless they present an obviously dangerous or hazardous condition. The Rancho Arroyo area in Niles is a protected area requiring permits for removal of all mature trees.

The City only removes trees that are dead or dangerous. The removal is a two (2) step process. The removal of the tree is scheduled for one of the tree crews. (The firewood is left on the property unless otherwise directed by the property owner.) The tree trunk is left approximately 3-4 feet tall so that it does not become a tripping hazard. In 4 to 8 weeks a stumping crew comes with a stump grinder to remove the trunk and grind out the stump. If conditions allow, a replacement tree will be scheduled for planting.

## Sidewalk, curb and gutter problems (resulting from trees or otherwise)

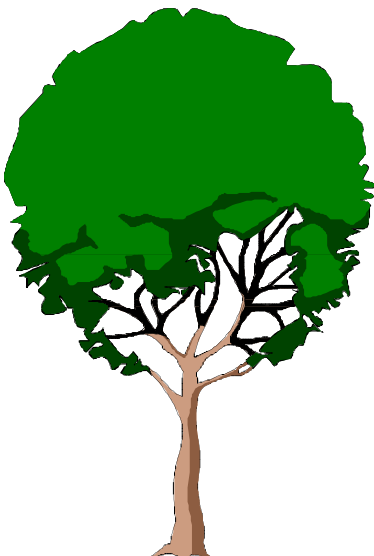
If a trip hazard is in the planter strip between the sidewalk and the curb, it is the home owner's responsibility, as the City does not place concrete in this area.

If the sidewalk is raised but is not displaced to create a trip hazard, no work will be done by the Street Department.

If the sidewalk is raised and displaced, the City Street Department will ramp it with asphalt if it is over 1". If it is a displacement under 1", the Street Crews will grind it down.

The Maintenance Department is not funded to repair curb and gutter. We will report the damage to the Engineering Department for consideration on future concrete repair programs.

If you have any questions please call:



Maintenance  
Engineering

713-5700  
494-4700